

FRANCIS MURPHY'S TOPICS

He Describes a Fishing Party and Gives His Idea of Progressive Religion.

The Temperance Revival Is Rapidly Reaching the Christian Workers, Who Are Responding to the Orator's Eloquent Appeals.

Account of the constantly increasing numbers in attendance at the afternoon Murphy meetings, it became necessary yesterday to hold the 3 o'clock talk in the large auditorium. The greatest interest yet manifested in any of the afternoon meetings was observable. Nine ministers of the city at the Murphy, and all bore testimony to the widespread hold the work is getting in the city. Dr. Ford, of Central-avenue Church, said: "People are beginning to take a vital interest in this movement. The name of Francis Murphy is becoming a household word among my people. But they are making some big complaints, too. Eight or ten cars loaded with them came back from that great meeting last night, sorely disappointed [laughter], they could not get in. [Laughter.] We want a place where the masses of the people can get in to hear him."

"Before I got through my breakfast this morning," said Dr. Cleveland, of Meridian-street Church, "people commenced ringing at my doorbell and wanted me to go and see their friends on this great question of temperance, and try to save them from the drink curse, and I have been at work with scarcely a minute's interval on this mission all day. One father called me across the street twice to day, and said about his son—that his heart was just dying for that boy! I have members of pledges from sources whence you would hardly expect them, and they will be here to-night." In speaking of the distinguished humanitarianism of Mr. Murphy the Doctor remarked, "Burke, at the height of his famous oratory of Howard, says of him that he completed the circumnavigation of the globe. Francis Murphy, in his love to man, however beset or degraded his condition, has grandly completed the circumnavigation of temperance."

The Rev. Dr. Mitchell and Lee also spoke with great enthusiasm concerning the effect of the movement on the religious as well as moral life of their people, and predicted that the outcome would be that of a revival.

"A Fishing Excursion with Jesus of Nazareth," was the topic of Mr. Murphy's talk. "Some of us think," he said, "that it is only nice, intelligent, cultured people who should be selected to bring the message of peace on earth, but we were never more mistaken. Culture has no weight in this balance. Jesus saw by the Sea of Galilee Simon and Peter, plain, rough men, who caught fish. He was looking for men that were not the material for power. Now, He did not go on to Jerusalem, and select some men versed in the languages and the law. Not a bit of it. Why? Because as men are versed in these things they are apt to lose much of the strength and originality of nature, and fall in the chains of dogma and prescription, weak and spiritless. Our colleges, with all deference to their good work, often ruin men of promise. [Applause.] Take eight or ten years of a man's life, and he is at the growing period of character, and tie him to classics and precedents of thought and traditions of religion, and the rigidity of axioms in art, science and in time he becomes afraid to think for himself. He is often a mere mimic of great men's ideas. He watches the lecturer, day after day, and finally acquires the very way and manner of the poor old fellow of a by-gone generation. He dries up, with his exemplar. [Laughter.] This is not the stuff of which great men are made. Christ was not seeking this kind of men. He took the gospel into all the world. No! He said unto these rude fishermen, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men,' and straightway in their childish faith—notice the very element of strength required—they obeyed Him. They left all and followed Him. The secret of power is to yield up what we love to God. Men are left all his magnificence and took his stand with the miserable, oppressed brick-makers, his brethren. Christians, let us make our stand with the down-trodden brick-makers of sin to-day in this city. [Applause.]

"There is more in this fishing story than at first thought might occur to you. Why, you will go out fishing with a net, and you will be as death, afraid to move a muscle, in breathless expectancy hour after hour [laughter], and the sun gets high and beads down on you, and you put your hands on your neck, and you catch a rivulet of briny liquid until it is soaked and drips again [laughter], and you sit looking at that spot as if your eyes would pop out of your head. [Laughter.] Oh, yes, they are there, only you don't see them. [Laughter.] And you keep this up for a day, this huge fun [laughter], and are proud to take home three or four little fish, scaly creatures as the result! [Laughter.] If people would only fish for men with that zeal the church of God soon would not be able to hold them! [Applause.] Another thing, you fishermen always go to any pains to get bait to suit your fish. You would go 100 miles to get a little piece of fish and feather to catch a trout. [Laughter.] Yes, you will. Now, there is proper bait for men. Abuse will never catch 'em, never! Nor force, nor law, nor any other method. The only way to catch them is to love them. And you must be willing to cut bait [laughter], and do it as you are told." [Laughter.]

Mr. Murphy then said the only bait for man was love, the milk of human kindness, and related how a man who was incurably determined to ruin himself came forward at the result of the story of Christ's love of man, and at the meetings in Pittsburgh, and signed the pledge. It was in the Opera-house, and everybody knew him. A great shout arose from the audience when he came to the table, and scores of men rushed up and gave him their hands. The man was one of Andrew Carnegie's foremen. The meeting closed with keen expressions of interest on the part of those to whom the talk was directed.

Progressive Religion.

There was another crowded house, at the evening meeting, and the keen spirit of enthusiasm at the orator's pungent wit, and eloquent appeals showed conclusively that his away over his hearers is daily increasing in power. His strong, direct manner, and effective way of working out of his ideas in gesture, from the simplest to the most complex, and the very instant he appears there is a visible stir of expectancy over the entire house, and everybody is on the alert for some bright ally. Mr. Murphy's talk last night was upon "Progressive Religion at Work with Sinners." "Progress in religion," he said, "was as dangerous to inebriate as any other, and had to be carefully brought to the people. He took his text from the eighth of Romans: 'There is, therefore, now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.' Paul took his stand for progressive religion, said the speaker. It had to be done sometime, and he did it then. He converts were in sore straits to conceive how men could be saved with no dependence on the traditional forms of their fathers. He administered, for the first time, a little strong meat to nourish them—grace doing away with law, and divine love triumphant over religious terrorism."

"The apostles had been having hard times," continued Mr. Murphy, "and I guess some of them wanted to go fishing again. [Laughter.] The apostle Paul heard his brethren in their complaints, and fears, and weakness, and then he stood forth to stay the tide like some mighty rock that sustains the light-house in the ocean, and said, 'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' That man was made of the stuff that heroes are made of, and his sublime faith in man and belief in the love of God led him at that vital moment of the church's history to stand firm for the hope that was in him. It was this same love that led Christ to heat that poor woman, the day of the procession, who came among the crowd, to touch the hem of His garment. She had taken every patent medicine advertised in Judea. [Laughter.] And she said to her husband, who had mortgaged his house to keep up with the expense, just as we do now. [Laughter.] 'Why, I am suffering in suffering, she said, 'I would not be sorry if the good Lord would take me. I am such a burden to you.' And he turned away his face, and replied, 'Now, don't talk any more like that."

You will be better presently! And when she heard of the Master being near, she got up with her poor, weak body, and went among the great crowd to seek him. She just got so near, and was about to be borne away again by the surging current, when she touched the hem of His garment, and was made whole. [Laughter.] 'Who touched me?' He felt virtue gone from him. And she answered, womanlike, thinking some one else would be blamed. 'It was I, Lord.' 'Thy faith hath made thee whole.' Not the touch of the garment. If some rude man had jostled him, he would have gotten no virtue from the touch."

"Only those can receive virtue who have faith. This is the condition. Now these poor drunkards need to be made whole. They need new stomachs, [laughter], and Christ can give them. I have got one myself. [Laughter.] Christ can make a new man in a new body to-day, just as he did then. I will show you how it is done. Now, there are two people I pity. I pity the young fellow who is tripping away all his wages. When his rainy day comes he has nothing to fall back on. He can't water his stomach. He hasn't got any! [Laughter.] His stock in trade is his strong right arm. It is strained. He must lie idle. And a great big board bill crawls up on him day by day, with nothing to pay it with. His landlady moves him up to the top floor [laughter], and his kerosene lamp is filled up with water and a few spoonfuls of oil floating around the top. [Applause and laughter.] A voice: 'That's so.' Oh! I see you have been there yourselves, you have. [Laughter.] Poverty is a tyrant. [Applause.] You fellows want to be drawn into some trap, and get to work like men, with iron in your blood! [Applause.] Another class I pity, is these young men who go among us with a poodle dog, and cane. [Laughter.] Yes, and when they refuse to work their fathers just give them a check, and they take it with the reflection, 'Ah! just like father, I do dash.' [Laughter.] I pity these young men. I pity your rich fathers who support them in idleness, intemperance and vice. This gospel must be preached at a very cost. We are coming to the practical work in this city. I have been on the tramp all day. I went into a saloon here this afternoon, and exclaiming my mind to the proprietor, said: 'My name is Francis Murphy.' 'Well, well, well! Mein Gott! I doan see drink dat you come in here.' 'I want to tell you, if you have any customers who are becoming drunkard, to stoppiling them with whisky, and send them my message.' 'Dot ish so. I will do dot ferry ding.' 'God bless you!' I said, and the man looked as if he had been struck by a thunderbolt. [Laughter.] I invited him to attend the meeting himself, and he said he would do it! Christian people, what do you think of that? Right here in your own city. We are going to work now. How many of you have ever taken a janitor-keeper by the hand, and with naught but love in your heart, tried to get them to stop the curse themselves? This is the way to do it. Platforms have been thrashed long by temperance workers. The place they are wanted now is in the saloon. [Applause.] His movement saves publicans, and with God's help, I am going to visit the saloons of Indianapolis, and the ministers are going with me. [Defeating applause.]

Let me tell you how these men have been saved, and will be again rich here. In the city of Sterling, Ill., when I went there several years ago the most fashionable saloon-keeper in the place attended my meeting every night. A man sitting near me said to me, out explained who he was and gave the noble Christian advice to go for him [laughter], which I was careful not to do, keeping the tenor of my speech on its original theme of the love of God to man. I saw that the big fellow's spirit was being broken. He was a man weighing about 225 pounds, with a heart as big as an apple-tree in blossom. [Laughter.] I went to him and tried to get him to sign the pledge. He could not. Why? I asked. Because he had invested in the business, and had just put a poor man's plaster on it for \$10,000 more to carry it on with. He attended through the series of meetings, deeply affected, but unwilling to sign to the last. Some time after that I returned to that city. He had been preparing to go out of the business to sign the pledge, and he did it. He was only after a series of suspense and hesitancy at my hotel room one night, he found Christ then and there. He went home and woke his wife with the sound of his weeping for joy. That whole family wept that night. The mother and her beautiful daughters had been social outcasts on account of his business being that of 'rum-seller,' and they had begged him for years to abandon it. To-day he is living a spotless life in that city, is a prominent church member, though some people were a little afraid he would hurt them when he came [laughter], and a useful worker in the cause of Christ." Mr. Murphy concluded with an eloquent appeal, a summary of his life, and a plea for the work. Many came forward and signed the pledge. The Methodist ministers, at their meeting, yesterday morning, passed a resolution endorsing these meetings.

DEMOCRATIC CONSISTENCY.

That Is What Some of the Party Say Relative to the Opening of the Senate.

In connection with the approaching session of the General Assembly there is some intimation that the Democrats will revive the Smith-Robertson contest of two years since, and make a second attempt to prevent Lieutenant-governor Robertson from exercising the duties of his office in the matter of organizing the Senate.

Under the law it is the duty of the Lieutenant-governor to call that body to order and preside over its deliberations. When, by reason of absence or inability, the Lieutenant-governor is unable to appear, it is provided that the Auditor of State shall act in his place and stead. The situation, looked at from a Democratic standpoint, is changed considerably from what it was when the Jennings controversy founded the preceding officer's desk and yelled defiance as long as he had a majority to support him. Then it was claimed by Democrats that notwithstanding the opinion of their Attorney-general and their own subsequent declarations to the contrary, no Lieutenant-governor was chosen at the election at which Col. Robertson received a majority of the votes cast, and that Senator Smith, who had been chosen President of the Senate, was the legitimate officer. The rights and emoluments of the Lieutenant-governorship.

Now President pro tempore Smith is no longer a member of the State Senate. No President pro tempore was chosen by that body at its last session, a resolution looking to that result in naming Senator Cox as the position being voted down by a large majority. The Democratic members, therefore, will have no one of their own number at the opening of the session who can assume to be the legitimate officer. It is, therefore, to be expected that they should be able to prevent Lieutenant-governor Robertson from opening the session, it is hardly likely they will be able to induce as good a Republican as Senator Cox to take his place. Nevertheless, it seems to be the opinion of the Democratic advisers that something will have to be done to preserve the consistency of the party, and whether that something will take the form of more protest or more active opposition to the carrying out of the law by Lieutenant-governor Robertson remains to be seen.

The latter gentleman, interviewed yesterday afternoon, stated that he had no definite intention of any intention on the part of Democratic members to oppose his acting as presiding officer, although he had heard more or less talk of that character. "I do not believe, myself," he added, "that any serious opposition to my acting as such officer will be made. The Democrats have no one to put forward this time as a claimant to the powers and privileges of the Lieutenant-governorship. And that Robertson will not serve them, and they will find their game blocked at the outset unless they undertake to find a way out by one of their own number making a motion and himself putting it to a vote. The more politic Democratic leaders will hardly be willing, I think, for the sake of a four days' occupancy of the chair, to risk a decision by the Supreme Court which will fix the status of their entire proceedings since the controversy began. Another reason I have for expecting no trouble is that the Democratic majority in the Senate will be considerably smaller this year than it was two years ago, and, besides, there is no United States Senator to elect. I have an idea they will content themselves with filing a protest against me, as Governor Gray did when I served on the board of equalization with him last year. Still, there is no telling what the desire for Democratic consistency may develop. I am sure that I intend to do my duty in the premises, although, personally, it is a matter of small moment to me who presides at the opening."

Indiana's Anniversary.

Many of the public schools throughout the State will celebrate to-day as the seventy-second anniversary of the admission of Indiana into the Union. For the convenience of teachers Superintendent of Public Instruction LaFollette has issued a programme for the day. It provides for a song by the school, opening exercises, and then a brief historical sketch of the State. Several appropriate poems for recitation are then inserted, including "Patriotism," "Hallowed Ground," "The American Flag," and others. Among the songs recommended for the day are "Hail Columbia," "Our Country," and others.

More Natural Gas.

A meeting of the National Road Natural-gas Company, a majority of the stock being held by Indianapolis men, will be held here some afternoon this week. It is for the purpose of completing plans for coming into the city. Yesterday, the Broad Bridge Company got a good well in the John J. Johnson farm, near Castleton. The company will connect it at once with their system of mains.

REAR-ADMIRAL HANCROFT GHERARDI, Commandant of the Brooklyn Navy-Yard, Preparing to Depart.

Rear-admiral Gherardi, commandant of the Brooklyn navy-yard, is obeying instructions received from Secretary Whitney, to have the ships Richmond, Galena and Yantic prepared for sea as rapidly as possible. The order is understood to be in pursuance of the intention to compel the Haytian authorities to restore the captured American vessel, the Haytian Republic.

The veteran officer entrusted with the preparation of the proposed expedition, Bancroft Gherardi, was born in Louisiana on Nov. 10, 1832. He was fourteen years of age when he entered the United States navy from the commonwealth of Massachusetts. The war with Mexico was then in progress. After six years at sea, the young sailor entered the Naval Academy, then of the steamer Port Royal, in the western blockading squadron. It was while on this duty, in the years 1853 and 1854, that he took part in the battle of Mobile Bay, fought Aug. 5, 1864. Farragut commanding the fleet, Gherardi was in service on the Lancaster, of the Pacific squadron. Upon his return to the Atlantic coast, the same year, he was made a lieutenant-commander. He took part in the bombardment of Fort Macon, which took place in 1862. His subsequent services during the war were as commander of the steamer Choctaw, then of the steamer Port Royal, in the western blockading squadron. 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